



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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CMAP Wastewater Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

10:30 a.m.

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
DuPage County Conference Room
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

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| Committee Members | Debra Shore (Cook County), Wallace Van Buren (IAWA), Frank Beal (CMAP Board), Hon. Roger Claar (CMAP Board), Hon. Richard Reinbold (CMAP Board) |
| Staff Present: | Dawn Thompson, Randy Blankenhorn, Don Kopec, Tim Loftus, Jesse Elam |
| Others Present: | Joe Schuessler (MWRDGC), Mariyana Spyropoulos (MWRDGC), Cindy Skrukud (Sierra Club) |

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes-November 13, 2013

The minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting were approved, as presented.

4.0 Facility Planning Area Review Procedure Changes Update

Mr. Blankenhorn gave an overview of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) regional role in wastewater planning and emphasized that smart infrastructure investments must be made to meet the needs of the growing population. Hence, wastewater planning should be consistent with regional goals, namely Go To 2040 and federal and state recommendations.

Mr. Blakenhorn stated that it is CMAP's intent to focus on what it does best, planning versus devoting its energies on engineering focused reviews of wastewater plans. As such,

CMAP has amended the Facility Planning Area (FPA) Process and Procedures Manual to consider water conservation, green infrastructure, energy use, and agricultural preservation.

The manual removes duplication of efforts between CMAP and other agencies involved in the FPA process, it aligns the process with Go To 2040 and it reduces the number of items needed for CMAP's FPA review. Specifically, the manual eliminates requirements for CMAP to review National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits and to examine an applicant's proposed alternatives for wastewater treatment. It also focuses on GO TO 2040 objectives and requests that applicants adopt a water conservation ordinance, protect the green infrastructure network and conduct an energy audit. Furthermore, the manual reduces the amount of items needed for CMAP's review from 81 items to a mere 20 items. These changes align with CMAP's regional plan and with objectives found in both the Illinois Water Quality Management Plan and Areawide Water Quality Management Plan. These plans were created to guide issues related to wastewater planning and are the basis for the FPA process.

Both Hon. Claar and Hon. Reinbold believed that changes to the FPA manual may place unnecessary financial burdens on already struggling units of government. They requested that there be a clear distinction between which items are required for CMAP's review and which items are merely recommendations for consideration. Hon. Claar requested that CMAP conduct an economic comparative analysis to ensure that no unnecessary financial burdens were placed potential FPA applicants. Mr. Blankenhorn replied that CMAP does not have the ability to conduct such an analysis at this time. Ms. Thompson suggested that there may be some cost savings since the amount of items need for CMAP's FPA review was reduced from 84 items to 21 items.

Mr. Beal voiced support for CMAP's efforts and believed that the business community would support CMAP's direction. Ms. Shore asked that the manual include examples of communities that have considered CMAP's GO TO 2040 priorities (e.g. energy audit, green infrastructure) and the benefits derived. The manual should also describe available resources (e.g. grant funding, competitive pricing) for these priorities.

Mr. Van Buren read a position statement to the Committee. In summary, he stated that the FPA process was created to protect federal grant investments and to ensure wastewater planning was considered in the most economical and environmentally sound way. It was never intended to direct growth or to regulate land use. Therefore, CMAP's proposed changes to the FPA process, including its consideration of GO TO 2040 priorities should be eliminated. In addition, these considerations are not part of CMAP's agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Mr. Blankenhorn refuted this and stated that CMAP's proposed changes are in harmony with Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, which delegates CMAP's role in the review process.

Ms. Skrukrud stressed that the FPA process adds value to the region and provides a forum for citizen involvement in the process. She requested that CMAP continue to offer its planning expertise and consider an FPA requests' water quality impacts. One example

of CMAP's effort includes its review of the Valley Marina's wastewater treatment discharge to the Fox River. As a result of CMAP's recommendation, more phosphorus removal provisions were included in the applicant's NPDES Permit. Another example includes the City of Woodstock's request to increase its FPA by 8,000 acres. As a result of CMAP's planning review, Woodstock agreed to reduce this acreage to 3,000 acres since there were no imminent plans for development.

Ms. Skrukud noted that Section 201 of Clean Water Act (*see pg. 14 of the draft Process and Procedures Manual for an excerpt*), states that CMAP should have a continuing areawide planning process that considers wastewater treatment alternatives for proposed FPA requests. She stressed that CMAP should continue to provide its input on wastewater treatment alternatives by considering the state's 303(d) impaired waterway list and local watershed based plans that have been developed that draw attention to water quality issues in the receiving waters. In addition, the process should consider reclaiming and reusing wastewater. She suggested that the FPA Process and Procedures manual include some local examples about reclaiming wastewater (e.g. wastewater reuse, land application). She also requested that the manual include a water quality subsection under Criterion 2 that considers environmental impacts of a proposed amendment. This would allow CMAP to encourage post treatment for wastewater and membrane systems as recommendations for consideration.

5.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

6.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7.0 Next Meeting

The Wastewater Committee Meeting meets on an as needed basis.

8.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Van Buren and seconded by Hon. Claar to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn Thompson, Committee Liaison

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